

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

3b. GSA Committee No.

12152

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

04/30/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

04/30/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

P.L. 106-503

13. Effective Date

11/13/2000

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

05/08/2018

Report Title

SESAC Report 2017-2018

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
The Committee reviewed and considered the current activities and strategic planning of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program and discussed future priorities. Specific topics included a new plan for subduction zone science and the update of seismic hazard maps for Alaska and Hawaii.	10/10/2017	10/11/2017
The Committee reviewed and considered FY18 implementation and FY19 budget planning, the implementation and public rollout of earthquake early warning, changes to seismic monitoring the in central and eastern U.S., The Committee was updated on Earthquake Hazards Program Strategic Planning.	03/05/2018	03/06/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$80,000.00	\$85,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$5,000.00	\$7,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$400.00	\$500.00
18d. Total	\$103,400.00	\$110,500.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.25	1.25

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Advisory Committee advises the Director on matters relating to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, including the United States Geological Survey's roles, goals and objectives within that Program, its capabilities and research needs, guidance on achieving major objectives, and establishing and measuring performance goals. The Advisory Committee shall issue an annual report to the Director of the USGS for submission to Congress on or before September 30 of each year.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Individuals are qualified in the seismic sciences and other appropriate fields. Selection of individuals shall be based solely on the established records of distinguished service and a reasonable cross-section of views and expertise is represented. Due consideration is given to recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, and other appropriate organizations.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year - 2

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Advisory Committee is established pursuant to the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-503). The Committee advises the Director of the USGS on matters relating to the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, including roles, goals, and objectives within that Program.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

William Stanley Leith Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake & Geologic Hazards

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Archuleta, Ralph	03/23/2015	03/31/2018	University of California Santa Barbara	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Beroza, Gregory	12/20/2016	12/31/2019	Stanford University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Burgmann, Roland	07/16/2016	05/30/2018	University of California, Berkeley	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ekstrom, Goran	01/20/2017	01/20/2020	Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Furr, Julie	12/20/2016	12/31/2019	Chad Stewart and Associates, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Long, Maureen	10/21/2016	10/31/2019	Yale University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Maffei Tovani, Janiele	03/23/2015	03/31/2018	California Earthquake Authority	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Melbourne, Timothy	12/16/2015	12/31/2018	Central Washington University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pekelnicky, Robert	12/20/2016	12/31/2019	Degenkolb Engineers	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

Narrative Description

The Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee was appointed and charged to advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey on matters relating to that agency's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. The charge includes review of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program roles, goals, and objectives, assessment of its capabilities and research needs, guidance on achieving major objectives, and establishment of performance goals.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

If the Committee's recommendations are acted on and effective, the cost savings would be measured in terms of losses avoided during earthquake disasters.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

16

Number of Recommendations Comments

Four recommendations for FY 2018 were delivered via the committee's annual report delivered May 2018. The report emphasized the need to retain strength and staff in the program and to maintain a healthy balance between earthquake research and monitoring. The committee also endorsed agency plans to issue operational aftershock forecasts, and recommended that the agency not implement an externally drafted plan for enhanced Alaska monitoring using current program resources.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

50%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The stated percentage applies to the four recommendations made by the committee in FY 2018. Progress on other recommendations is ongoing.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

50%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The stated percentage applies to the five recommendations made by the committee in FY 2018.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Director of the USGS and the Associate Director for Natural Hazards have participated in past SESAC meetings and made presentations on topics of interest or timely issues brought before the Committee or the U.S. Geological Survey. The Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards reviews the committee recommendations and provides a status update to the committee at least once a year.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The USGS uses the committee's recommendations to guide the Earthquake Hazards Program.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

The committee is advisory not decision-making.

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

online agency web site: <http://earthquakes.usgs.gov/aboutus/sesac/>